

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, IR, GW, IS, JO

SUBJ: SHAH COMMENTS TO WEST GERMAN REPORTERS

1. SHAH GAVE INTERVIEW APRIL 24 TO GROUP OF WEST GERMAN NEWSMEN WHO WERE ACCOMPANYING PRESIDENT SCHEEL ON FINAL DAY OF STATE VISIT. IN WIDE-RANGING SESSION SHAH MADE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. GOI FOREIGN POLICY: REITERATING FAMILIAR THEME OF IRAN'S "INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY" SHAH SAID, "WE ARE FOR DETENTE, BUT WE SAY THAT YOU CANNOT HAVE DETENTE IN ONE PLACE AND TURMOIL IN THE REST OF THE WORLD. IT MUST BE UNIVERSAL, OTHERWISE DETENTE MEANS NOTHING."

3. GOI INTERNAL POLICY: THE GOI LIBERALIZATION PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE, ACCORDING TO THE SHAH, DESPITE "THIS HANDFUL OF PEOPLE FROM THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE". HE ADDED THAT, "I SHALL TAKE GREAT CARE, IN THE MEANTIME, TO KEEP THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL". THE SHAH TARTLY COMMENTED THAT HE AND SCHEEL DID NOT DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES BECAUSE "IF YOU
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BRING IN THIS TOPIC THEN I CAN DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN YOUR COUNTRY".

4. SAUDI ARABIA: IN SHAH'S VIEW, RELATIONS WITH THIS COUNTRY "PERHAPS HAVE NEVER BEEN AS GOOD AS THEY ARE NOW."

5. ARAB-ISRAEL: SHAH REPEATED FAMILIAR GOI SUPPORT FOR

SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS SEEKING RETURN OF OCCUPIED TERRITORIES TO COUNTRIES THAT LOST THEM IN 1967. AS FOR CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE, SHAH SAID HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT KING HUSSEIN WOULD HONOR THE ASPIRATIONS OF THE PALESTINIANS AND CONSULT THEM ON FUTURE OF THE WEST BANK. THIS FORMULA WOULD ELIMINATE NEED FOR ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIANS TO DEAL WITH EACH OTHER-- A MAJOR BLOCK TO CURRENT PEACE EFFORTS, THE SHAH SAID.

6. COMMENT: WHILE REVEALING NO NEW POLICY DEPARTURES ON PART OF GOI, SHAH REPEATED SEVERAL CURRENT THEMES AND SPECIFICALLY CALLED ONCE AGAIN FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

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